

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Lassen

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office

**Project Title: Shaffer Sage-grouse Lek Land Appraisal
(Prior application SNC 070355)**

PROJECT GOAL

This project requests funding for appraisal services for the Shaffer Sage-grouse Lek Land Appraisal. The project consists of appraising 680 acres of land in order to pursue acquisition of these lands on which the Shaffer Lek, a sage-grouse breeding ground, occurs.

PROJECT SCOPE

An appraisal would be conducted for two parcels of land; a 640-acre parcel (section) on which the lek is located, and a 40-acre parcel located approximately one mile west of the lek parcel. The current landowners are absentee, and are interested in selling these land parcels. Following the appraisal, BLM plans to cooperate with Sierra Nevada Conservancy and/or other partners regarding an appropriate funding source to pursue the actual acquisition of these land parcels.

Shaffer lek is the active lek forming the heart of the Shaffer (sage-grouse) Complex. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) guidelines for sage-grouse management show through research that leks are the most essential part of habitat necessary for conservation of sage-grouse populations. The appraisal and eventual acquisition of these properties would be important steps in local efforts to conserve sage-grouse, and would aid in protecting the local watershed from possible detrimental uses if acquired by a private party.

The Northeast California Sage-Grouse Working Group is an organization comprised of local government and non-government agencies and private entities who developed a Conservation Strategy for Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystems within the Buffalo-Skedaddle Population Management Unit. This document is a product related to sage-grouse conservation and sagebrush restoration, and states that among its top priorities are retention of leks in public ownership and acquisition of leks occurring on private lands. Pursuing this project demonstrates to partners and the public that BLM is continuing to move forward with actions to conserve sage-grouse, sage-grouse habitat and the health of watersheds within the Sierra Nevada region.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

None are included, however this project is supported by governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations, and individuals on federal, regional, state, and local levels. These include: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Lassen County Board of Supervisors, Lassen County Fish and Game Commission, Modoc County Fish and Game Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), The Northeast California Sage-Grouse Working Group, and various stakeholders such as academicians, livestock operators, farmers, representatives from environmental groups, retired BLM employees, and private citizens.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
INCLUDE SPECIFIC TASKS IDENTIFIED IN SCOPE AND ALL REPORTS, ETC.	ASSUME START DATE 60 DAYS AFTER SNC BOARD AUTHORIZATION
Obtain qualified appraiser	February 2009
Delivery of appraisal (meeting CA and BLM standards)	by August 2009
Submit six-month progress report	by August 2009
Submit final report	by December 2009

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
INCLUDE COSTS FOR STAFF, TASKS, DELIVERABLES AND PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES	\$
Appraiser costs: Includes travel, appraisal, contacts with landowners and real estate agent, and associated paperwork.	\$10,000
Administration and coordination between appraiser and BLM, including communications and written reports	\$ 1,500
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$11,500